

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ultra-low carbon stainless steel which comprises a seal function layer in a surface layer,

wherein the seal function layer is formed by an ion implantation method, and

the ultra-low carbon stainless steel contains carbon in an amount of 0.01% by weight or less.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ion is a nitrogen ion.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to any one of claims 1 or 3 to 4, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is dehydrogenated in advance.

6. (New) An ultra-low carbon stainless steel which comprises a seal function layer in a surface layer,
wherein the seal function layer is formed by an ion implantation method,

the ultra-low carbon stainless steel contains carbon in an amount of 0.01% by weight or less, and

the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is dehydrogenated.

7. (New) The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 6, wherein the ion is a nitrogen ion.